



## **Tegucigalpa Declaration in Commemoration of the Fifth Anniversary of the Establishment of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) in Central America and Mexico**

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, December 13th, 2022.

The Member States of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama, gathered at the V Annual Meeting in the city of Tegucigalpa under the auspices of the Pro-Tempore Presidency of Honduras, to commemorate the Fifth Anniversary of the establishment of the MIRPS, to review progress and challenges at the national and regional levels, and in order to continue promoting the coordination of regional and national responses based on shared responsibility for prevention, protection, and durable, sustainable, and dignified solutions for refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, and returnees to their countries of origin who are in need of protection in Central America and Mexico.

*Highlighting* the importance of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Global Compact on Refugees.

*Reaffirming* the commitments made in 2017 in the San Pedro Sula Declaration by agreeing to establish the Regional Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), developing regional cooperation mechanisms and shared responsibility with the Support Platform and all relevant actors considering the National Action Plans in accordance with the legislations of each Member State.

*Recalling also* the commitments established in the declarations adopted in the framework of the MIRPS, of Mexico City, San Salvador City, and Antigua, Guatemala, and in the Omnibus Resolution AG/RES. 2991(LII-O/22) adopted during the 52nd Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, particularly in sections "ix. Protection of applicants for recognition of refugee status and refugees in the Americas" and xiii. Protection of human rights in the face of the pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus and future epidemic or pandemic emergencies."

*Welcoming the fact that* the MIRPS, five years after its establishment, is returning to the place where it was born and that it has now been consolidated as a practical regional contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees and as a regional cooperation mechanism, based on solidarity and shared responsibility with the Support Platform, from which joint actions are promoted to mitigate the structural causes of displacement in the region and to respond to the humanitarian and protection needs of displaced persons.

*Recognizing* the importance and collaboration of the MIRPS Support Platform to optimize the participation of the international community and to comply with the commitments of the MIRPS Member States for the benefit of refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, and returnees to their countries of origin who are in need of protection.

*Taking into account that* human mobility, especially mixed and continuous migratory movements in the region are multi-causal with particularities and responses specific to each country, according to their internal legislation, including the prolonged effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, socioeconomic factors,

the impacts of natural disasters and climate change, the different manifestations of violence and insecurity, among other factors.

*Considering* that the movements of people in the region are of a mixed nature, large-scale and continuous, and that in recent years there has been an increase in the number of displaced persons in need of international protection, which has brought new challenges, increasing the demand on States to provide protection and promote the search for durable sustainable and dignified solutions for refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, and returnees to their countries of origin who are in need of protection, migrants in an irregular situation, unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents, family units, victims of human trafficking, migrant victims of smuggling, women and people in vulnerable situations who require comprehensive support, attention to their needs, and measures to protect their rights.

*Recognizing* that the MIRPS Member States have updated their National Action Plans to reflect the current contexts of the countries of origin, transit, and destination in the region as well as the leadership of the States in the MIRPS Working Groups that has allowed for the exchange of knowledge, experiences, lessons learned and good practices.

*Reaffirming* the need to continue expanding strategic and collaborative partnerships by implementing the whole-of-society approach for the assistance to displaced persons with international protection needs, including actions by MIRPS Member States, members of the MIRPS Support Platform, local governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, international and regional organizations, development actors, the United Nations system of international cooperation, and other relevant actors.

*Also highlighting* that within the framework of the Ninth Summit of the Americas, held in Los Angeles, California, in June 2022, the seven Member States of the MIRPS signed the "Declaration of Los Angeles on Migration and Protection," in which they reiterated their willingness to strengthen regional and hemispheric efforts to create the conditions for safe, orderly, humane, and regular migration, and to strengthen the necessary frameworks for protection and international cooperation.

**WE AGREE TO:**

1. Continue strengthening the structure and operation of the MIRPS as a comprehensive regional mechanism for effective responses implementing concrete actions based on shared responsibility for protection in the region and proposing durable and sustainable solutions to refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, and returnees to their countries of origin with protection needs, and from there, promote joint policies as appropriate to each national context and legislation.
2. Continue strengthening national institutions of each country responsible for refugee status determination processes by improving technical capacities and increasing financial resources, in accordance with the capacity of each country with the support and assistance of the MIRPS Support Platform and the international cooperation.

3. Continue promoting dialogue and actions to address the needs of displaced persons in need of international protection, and the multi-causal factors, including dedicated attention to the underlying causes that generate forced displacement in the region, in compliance with the principles of burden sharing, of non-refoulement, and shared responsibility within a framework of regional cooperation and solidarity.
4. Continue strengthening the mechanisms to ensure that children and adolescents in the context of mobility, accompanied, unaccompanied, or separated from their families, are granted special treatment and adequate protection while their rights are protected, safeguarding the best interests of the child as a primary consideration.
5. Advance in the implementation of the National Action Plans and updated commitments in each MIRPS Member State through the leadership of the National Technical Teams, with the support of the Technical Secretariat and the National Coordination Groups established according to each national context.
6. Multiply the efforts to strengthen the search for alternatives to promote the integration and inclusion of populations of interest, considering the differentiated needs of vulnerable groups and populations.
7. Continue to strengthen the efforts of the MIRPS Working Groups to promote cooperation mechanisms and the sharing of best practices to seek durable solutions for displaced persons in need of international protection, in the Groups on: 1) Reception, Admission, and Processing of Persons in Need of Protection; 2) Internal Displacement; 3) Local Governance; and 4) Jobs and Livelihoods.
8. Acknowledge the contributions provided by the MIRPS Support Platform for the mobilization of financial and technical support and assistance to the MIRPS Member States; furthermore, to highlight for its relevance, and as a very positive effort that should be replicated, the "Solidarity Event" held on September 21, 2022, organized by Canada and the United States of America in which they reaffirmed their commitment of shared responsibility.
9. To thank the Kingdom of Spain for the first contribution to the MIRPS Fund created within the framework of the OAS and to urge the Member States of the OAS, the Support Platform, Member States of the United Nations, permanent observers, and other donors to continue and/or to make voluntary contributions to this Fund to support the MIRPS Member States in the fulfillment of their commitments and to continue strengthening this regional mechanism.
10. Continue to expand partnerships with municipalities and local governments in each MIRPS Member State by strengthening their capacities to establish inclusive communities, and promoting collaborative, sustainable, and comprehensive approaches to respond to the challenges posed by the displacement of people in need of international protection in host countries and communities.
11. Recognize the contributions of civil society for the protection and solutions for internally displaced persons, asylum-seekers, refugees, and returnees to their countries of origin who have protection needs, exploring synergies and possible collaborations for the implementation of the commitments updated in the National Action Plans.

12. Expand partnerships and continue the support of the private sector to explore alternatives to improve the economic opportunities, livelihoods, and self-sufficiency of internally displaced persons, asylum-seekers, refugees, and returnees to their countries of origin who are in need of protection.
13. To recognize and highlight the technical support of UNHCR and the OAS General Secretariat through the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE) as Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS, under the leadership of the Pro-Tempore Presidency, for its continuous efforts to generate a regional space for dialogue and joint work that strengthens regional cooperation. Also, to request continued support and monitoring in the implementation of national and regional responses, through technical assistance, the exchange of best practices and lessons learned.
14. Thank the Government of Canada for its leadership as Second Chair of the Support Platform and welcome the United States of America for assuming and serving as Third Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform.
15. To recognize the management and leadership exercised by the Fourth MIRPS Pro-Tempore Presidency by the Government of Honduras and to welcome the Government of Panama as the new MIRPS Pro-Tempore Presidency.